



Atty. Dkt. No. 062834-0142

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN  
Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND  
COMPUTER PROGRAM  
PRODUCT FOR SUPPLIER  
SELECTION IN A SUPPLY  
CHAIN MANAGEMENT  
FRAMEWORK

Appl. No.: 09/816,083

Filing Date: 3/23/2001

Examiner: Zeender, Florian M.

Art Unit: 3627

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

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**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

All of the documents are in English.

Applicant respectfully requests that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

**FEE**

A fee in connection with submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.97(c) in the amount of \$180.00 in accordance with 37 CFR §1.17(p) is attached.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date June 10, 2005

By 

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  Date Submitted: June 10, 2005  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>		
				Application Number		09/816,083
				Filing Date		March 23, 2005
				First Named Inventor		George H. Hoffman
				Group Art Unit		3627
				Examiner Name		Florian M. Zeender
Attorney Docket Number				062834-0142		

O I P E  
 JUN 10 2005  
 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	A1	5,946,662 A		Ettl et al.	08-31-1999	
	A2	6,222,533	B1	Notani et al.	04-24-2001	
	A3	6,324,522	B2	Peterson et al.	11-27-2001	
	A4	6,542,905	B1	Fogel et al.	04-01-2003	
	A5	6,609,101	B1	Landvater	08-19-2003	
	A6	6,697,702	B1	Hahn-Carlson	02-24-2004	
	A7	6,725,454	B1	Nagel et al.	04-20-2004	
	A8	6,836,750	B2	Wong et al.	12-28-2004	
	A9	2002/011648		Phillips et al.	08-2002	
	A10	2002/0198808		Myers	12-2002	
	A11	2003/0195791		Waller et al.	10-2003	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	A12		WO 97/17663	A1	De La Motte	05-1997		

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>6</sup>
	A13	Baldwin, Graeme, Effects of Facilities on Hong Kong Supermarkets, Jan/Feb 1999, Vol. 17, No. 1/2, page 54 (DIALOG, File 15).	
	A14	O'Sullivan R.C., A New Breed of Benchmarking, Association Management, February 2000, Vol. 52, No. 2, pages 69-74 (DIALOG: File 15).	
	A15	Swartz, Nikki, TSI's Formula for Success, Apparel Industry Magazine, December 1997, Vol. 58, No. 12, pages AS6-AS10 (DIALOG: File 15).	

 Examiner  
Signature

 Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.